

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KATO, et al.

Serial No.: Divisional of application
Serial No. 09/177,495

Filed: September 7, 1999

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING
METHOD THEREFOR

Group:

Examiner:



H. Kewen
#3
10-25-99

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

September 7, 1999

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find a List of documents cited in connection with prior applications of the above-identified application. The listed documents were cited in at least one of the following U.S. patent applications for which benefit has been claimed under 35 USC 120 in the above-identified application:

- (1) Application Serial No. 09/177,495, filed October 23, 1998;
- (2) Application Serial No. 09/061,062, filed April 16, 1998;
- (3) Application Serial No. 07/751,951, filed August 29, 1991, now U.S. Patent No. 5,314,509, issued May 24, 1994;
- (4) Application Serial No. 08/096,256, filed July 26, 1993, now U.S. Patent No. 5,349,762, issued September 27, 1994;
- (5) Application Serial No. 08/443,039, filed May 17, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,553,396, issued September 10, 1996;
- (6) Application Serial No. 08/593,870, filed January 30, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,661,913, issued September 2, 1997; and
- (7) Application Serial No. 08/882,731,

filed June 26, 1997.

In particular, note that each of these listed documents cited in connection with prior applications, was cited in application Serial No. 09/177,495, filed October 23, 1998.

The listed documents have been cited in connection with at least one prior application of the above-identified application for which priority has been claimed under 35 USC 120; accordingly, copies of the listed documents are not enclosed.

Of the listed documents, attention is particularly directed to the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 4,836,905 to Davis, et al.


In view of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all requirements of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with the documents on the enclosed List. Accordingly, consideration of the listed documents, upon further examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit

Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 503.30414C13) and please credit
any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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WIS/slk
Enclosures

Reference Index (1/4)

No.	Article
1	Japanese Laid-open P60-246635
2	Japanese Laid-open P01-298180
3	Japanese Laid-open P02-94647
4	International Laid-open P64-500072 (USP4917556)
5	Japanese Laid-open P02-61064 (USP4969790)
6	Terminological Dictionary of Semiconductor Equipment
7	Japanese Laid-open P01-310553
8	Japanese Laid-open P01-251734
9	Japanese Laid-open P63-15 ³ 2270
10	Japanese Laid-open P62-044571
11	Japanese Laid-open P62-050463
12	Semicon News('84/3)
13	Japanese Laid-open P02-106037
14	Japanese Laid-open P57-29577
15	Japanese Laid-open P62-207866
16	VLSI Process Handbook
17	Japanese Published P62-33745
18	Latest trend of process automation
19	Semicon News(84/12)
20	Japanese Laid-open U63-057734
21	Japanese Laid-open P63-133521
22	Japanese Laid-open P62-216315
23	Japanese Laid-open P60-52574 (USP4675096)
24	Japanese Laid-open U04-82841
25	Japanese Laid-open P58-93321
26	Semiconductor World (P136,137)('90/9)
27	Electronic Materials ('89/3)
28	Solid State('90/10)
29	Solid State('90/12)
30	Japanese Laid-open P03-19252

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No.	Article
	(Prior Application) (USP5186718)
31	Japanese Laid-open P02-052449
32	Japanese Laid-open U58-95636
33	Japanese Laid-open P01-316957
34	Japanese Laid-open P02-179946
35	Japanese Laid-open P62-132321
36	Japanese Laid-open U63-131123
37	WOA 8707309 (A)
38	EPA 0381338 (A)
39	EPA 0246453(A)
40	Japanese Laid-open P02-65252
41	Japanese Laid-open P01-135015
42	USP 4836905 (X)
43	Japanese Laid-open P61-250185
44	EPA 0367423 (USP4923584)
45	USP 4643629 (A)
46	Semiconductor World (P106~P111, '90/9)
47	Semiconductor World (P122~125, '90/9)
48	Japanese Laid-open P 02-2224242
49	Japanese Laid-open U02-26229
50	Japanese Laid-open P 58-108641
51	Semiconductor World (P110~113)('89/10)
52	Semiconductor World (P52~53)('91/8)
53	EP search report ('92/1)
54	EP search report ('98/4)
55	EP search report ('99/3)
56	Japanese Laid-open P 01-120811

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No.	Article
57	JP application No. 3-234408, Office action
58	JP No. 2646905, Notification of revocation ('98/12)
59	JP No. 2646905, Notification of revocation ('99/7)
60	JP No. 2646905, Decision of opposition
61	JP application No. 2-225321, Office action
62	JP application No. 2-225321, Interview record
63	JP application No. 8-335329, Office action ('97/9)
64	JP application No. 8-335329, Office action ('98/3)
65	JP No. 2816139, Notification of revocation
66	JP No. 2816139, Decision of opposition
67	JP application No. 9-329873, Office action ('98/6)
68	JP application No. 9-329873, Office action ('98/10)
69	JP No. 2942527, Notification of revocation
70	JP No. 2942527, Decision of opposition
71	JP application No. 11-001263, Office action
72	JP application No. 2000-054448, Office action
73	JP application No. 2000-054449, Office action
74	JP application No. 2000-054450, Office action
75	JP application No. 2000-054451, Office action
76	JP application No. 2000-054452, Office action
77	EP91307625, Office action
78	EP91307625, Summons to attend oral proceedings
79	EP91307625, Communication of a notice of opposition
80	EP91307625, Interlocutory decision
81	EP91307625, Minutes of the oral proceedings
82	EP97111628, Office action (1999/12)
83	EP97111628, Office action (2000/11)
84	EP97111628, Office action (2001/6)

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No.	Article
85	EP98106162, Office action (2000/11)
86	EP98106162, Office action (2001/6)
87	KR application No. 14984/91, Office action
88	KR patent No. 184682, Decision to opposition
89	KR patent No. 184682, Trial decision
90	KR application No. 46756/98, Office action
91	KR patent No. 212874, Decision to opposition
92	KR application No. 46757/98, Office action
93	KR patent No. 212819, Decision to opposition

List of Prior Arts Cited In Corresponding Applications (2/2)

No.	Article	Material to be submitted		Disclosure	Difference
		Full Translation (F)/ Partial Translation (P)/ English Abstract (A)/ A copy of Material (M)			
57	JP application No. 3-234408, Office action	F,M			
58	JP No. 2646905, Notification of revocation ('98/12)	F,M			
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75	JP application No. 2000-054451, Office action	F,M			
76	JP application No. 2000-054452, Office action	F,M			
77	EP91307625, Office action	M			
78	EP91307625, Summons to attend oral proceedings	M			
79	EP91307625, Communication of a notice of opposition	M			
80	EP91307625, Interlocutory decision	M			
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87	KR application No. 14984/91, Office action	F,M			
88	KR patent No. 184682, Decision to opposition	F,M			
89	KR patent No. 184682, Trial decision	F,M			
90	KR application No. 46756/98, Office action	F,M			
91	KR patent No. 212874, Decision to opposition	F,M			
92	KR application No. 46757/98, Office action	F,M			
93	KR patent No. 212819, Decision to opposition	F,M			